



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

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Applicants: Roger R. Lesieur et al

Serial No.: 10/042,056

Filed: January 10, 2002

For: "Method for Desulfurizing Gasoline or Diesel Fuel for Use in a Fuel Cell Power Plant"

Docket No.: C-2373 Cont.

Group: 1764

Examiner: N. Norton

COMBINED NOTICE OF APPEAL AND APPEAL BRIEF UNDER RULE 192

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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SEP 22 2003

TC 1700

Dear Sir:

This is an appeal from the decision of the Primary Examiner dated July 14, 2003 finally rejecting claims 1-11 and 20-25 in the above-identified application.

(1) REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST: The real party in interest in this case is UTC Fuel Cells of South Windsor, CT.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES: There are no related appeals or interferences relating to this application.

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS: All of the claims have been either canceled or finally rejected.

(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS: All amendments have been entered.

(5) SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

A fuel processing method is operable to remove substantially all of the sulfur present in an undiluted oxygenated hydrocarbon fuel stock supply which contains an oxygenate and which is used to power a fuel cell power plant in a mobile environment, such as an automobile, bus, truck, boat, or the like, or in a stationary environment. The power plant hydrogen fuel source can be gasoline, diesel fuel, or other like fuels which contain relatively high levels of organic sulfur compounds such as mercaptans, sulfides, disulfides, and the like. The undiluted hydrocarbon fuel supply is passed through a desulfurizer bed (8) wherein essentially all of the sulfur in the organic sulfur compounds reacts with the nickel reactant, and is converted to nickel sulfide, while the now desulfurized hydrocarbon fuel supply continues through the remainder of the fuel processing system. The method does not require the addition of steam or a hydrogen source to the fuel stream prior to the desulfurizing step. The method can be used to desulfurize either a liquid or a gaseous fuel



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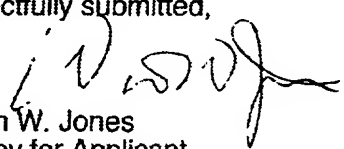
SEP 22 2003

TC 1700

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Final Rejection mailed July 14, 2003, enclosed are three copies of an Appeal Brief for use in connection with the captioned application. Please charge the combined notice of appeal and appeal brief fees of \$640.00 to Special Account No. 50-1307, Order No. C-2373 A. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

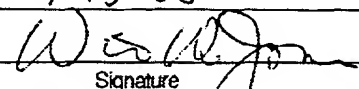
Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 9-13-03

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
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9-15-03


Signature

9-15-03

Date